DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 104 240 HE 006 362

AUTHOR Arnow, Gary; Yuker, Harold E.
TITLE Some Characteristics of Freshmen Who Select Hofstra. Report No. 110.
INSTITUTION Hofstra Univ., Hempstead, N.Y. Center for the Study of Higher Education.
PUB DATE Mar 75
NOTE 8p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Ability; *College Freshmen; College Majors; Demography; Educational Finance; *Higher Education; Research Projects; *Student Characteristics; Student Costs; *Universities
IDENTIFIERS *Hofstra University

ABSTRACT

This report describes the Hofstra freshmen accepted for the fall 1973 semester, and focuses on those students who graduated at the top of their high school class. Approximately 28 percent (901) of the 3,210 applicants paid a $100 fee (shows), and it is likely that a majority of the "no shows" decided to attend other schools. The variation in accepted rates (the number of accepted applicants as a percentage of the total number accepted), percent shows (the number of shows as a percentage of the total number accepted), were cross-tabulated by high school decile, geographic origin, major, and financial aid status to provide information useful in recruitment. Applicants graduating near the top of their school class made up the bulk of those accepted, but they were less likely to show at Hofstra. Acceptance rates reflect the college emphasis on quality, but show rates tend to favor the poorer students. Nassau applicants were the most likely to attend Hofstra. The bulk of all who were accepted (46 percent) and all who showed (60 percent) were from Nassau. Smaller numbers of applicants came from Suffolk, but they were second most likely to attend. Applicants from any area but Long Island were less likely to show, those from New York State areas other than New York City or Long Island were the least likely. Although there were unequal distributions of applicants in the different majors, there was little variation in show rates. Those who were undecided about their major were a little more likely to attend, but differences were small. (Author)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Report #110
March 1975

Some Characteristics of Freshmen Who Select Hofstra

Gary Arnow and Harold E. Yuker

ED104240

Introduction

The purpose of the present report is to describe the characteristics of students who enrolled at Hofstra in September 1973 as freshmen, and to compare them to those individuals who were accepted for the fall 1973 semester and who did not attend. In these descriptions and comparisons, emphasis will be placed on superior students in view of the current emphasis on this group at the university. For the purposes of this report, superior students will be defined in terms of high school standing rather than in terms of test scores since previous studies (Yuker, 1966) have indicated that high school standing is the best predictor of performance at Hofstra.

The subjects of this report are the 3210 applicants who were accepted as incoming freshmen for the fall 1973 semester. Of this group, 28% (901) paid a $100 deposit indicating their intention to enroll. They are defined as "shows" since approximately 95% of them actually do enroll. The "no shows" are defined as those accepted applicants who did not pay the deposit. It is probable that most of the no shows decided to attend a school other than Hofstra since research using a national sample (Iffert and Clarke, 1965) indicated that 85% of the accepted applicants at a given institution enroll someplace the same year. Thus, a comparison of the shows and the no shows might be helpful in increasing the percent of applicants who show, defined as the show rate.

Available data were utilized to analyze the characteristics of shows and no shows in terms of five variables: (1) high school decile, (2) geographic origin, (3) indicated major, (4) whether or not financial aid was requested, and (5) whether or not financial aid was offered. Those individuals on whom high school decile information was not available were excluded from the analyses. When information on other variables was not available, the individual was excluded from some but not all of the analyses. This accounts for the small variations in sample size from one analysis to another.

High School Decile

Table 1 indicates the number and percent of the applicants who were accepted and who paid a deposit (showed) cross-tabulated by high school decile. It also gives the show rate indicating the number who showed as a percent of the number who were accepted. These data indicate that the bulk of the accepted students are in the top deciles of their high school graduating class. The number in each decile declined steadily; 88% of all accepted students where in the top half of their class. The relationship between high school decile and the number of applicants who showed at Hofstra is similar to the relationship between decile and the number of accepted applicants, except that the largest number of shows were in the second decile. The number of shows decreased steadily in each lower decile; 84% were from the top half of their class. The data indicating show rates are quite different, however. These data indicate that the highest show rates are found among the low decile students. Even though most of the accepted and enrolled applicants come from the top four deciles, their show rates are slightly below the college average of 28%.

Table 1

Students Accepted and Students Who Showed by High School Decile

Decile	Accepted #	Accepted %	Accepted cum %	Showed #	Showed %	Showed cum %	Show Rate (%)
1	711	22	22	162	18	18	23
2	672	21	43	183	20	38	27
3	569	18	61	144	16	54	25
4	515	16	77	141	16	70	27
5	362	11	88	126	14	84	35
6	220	7	95	73	8	92	33
7	100	3	98	42	5	97	42
8	39	1	99	19	2	99	49
9	18	1	100	7	1	100	39
10	4	-	100	4	-	100	100
Total (or Avg.)	3210	100		901	100		28

Geographic Origin

Table 2 presents data on the geographic origins (e.g. place of residence listed on the admission application) of the accepted and enrolled students and also gives the enrollment rate. The data are presented separately for those students who graduated in the top fifth of their class compared to all other students in order to determine whether there is a relationship among the three variables of show rate, high school decile, and geographic origin.

Table 2

Percent Accepted, Percent Showed, and Show Rate
by Geographic Origin and H.S. Class Rank

Geographic Origin	Percent Accepted Top 5th	Percent Accepted Other	Percent Showed Top 5th	Percent Showed Other	Show Rate Top 5th	Show Rate Other
Nassau	44	47	59	61	34	39
Suffolk	15	10	16	10	25	31
New York City	16	14	10	11	15	23
New York State(other)	8	10	3	6	11	20
Other States	17	19	12	12	18	19
Total (or Average)	100	100	100	100	25	30
N	1383	1827	345	556		

The data indicate that rates vary for different geographic regions. Slightly less than one out of every two students who were accepted, and somewhat more than one out of every two that showed were residents of Nassau County. The bulk of all accepted and all shows were from Nassau, and the smallest numbers were from elsewhere in New York State (other than N.Y.C. or L.I.). These findings apply to both those from the top fifth, as well as for the others. The breakdown of shows from the top fifth was indicative of the breakdown for the remaining shows, and very similar to the accepted applicants' distribution. More than one out of two were from Nassau, and one out of six were from Suffolk, one out of eight were from other states, one out of ten were from N.Y.C., and one out of thirty were from other N.Y.S. areas.

Show rates of those from the top fifth varied by geographic origins in the same way as the other groups, but the rates were always lower than those from the remaining four-fifths. Accepted applicants from Nassau County, regardless of decile showed at a better rate than average whereas accepted applicants from off Long Island, again regardless of decile showed at a lower rate than average.

Major

Table 3 indicates the percent accepted, the percent who showed, and the show rate broken down by major and by whether or not the students were in the top fifth of their graduating class.

Table 3

Percent Accepted, Percent Who Showed, and Show Rate
By Major and Class Rank

Major	Percent Accepted		Percent Showed		Show Rate	
	Top 5th	Other	Top 5th	Other	Top 5th	Other
Natural Science	31	21	29	19	23	27
Social Science	17	20	18	18	27	27
Humanities	26	29	25	31	24	32
Business	9	13	9	12	24	29
Undecided	17	17	19	20	28	36
Total (or Average)	100	100	100	100	25	30
N	1375	1819	341	549		

The largest percentages of both accepted students and those who showed, expressed an interest in majoring in the humanities, followed by those were interested in majoring in the natural sciences. These two groups accounted for more than half of all of the students who were accepted and who showed. Approximately, one-fifth of the accepted students expressed an interest in a social science major or indicated that they were undecided. The same percentages applied to those students who showed. Only about 10% of the accepted students and those who showed wanted to major in business. More than one out of every four who showed from the top fifth were natural science majors, but less than one out of five of the remaining shows

were in this group. Shows from the top fifth were somewhat more likely to be in natural science than their lower decile counterparts. Although there were unequal distributions of accepted and shows in the different majors, the variation of those from the top fifth was similar to the variation of those from the rest of the class. There was little variation in the show rates by major, but those from the top fifth were somewhat less likely to show just as for the entire group.

The show rates ranged from a high of 32% for those who were undecided, to a low of 25% for natural science, for all accepted applicants. For the other groups (social science, humanities, and business majors), a little more than one out of every four applicants paid the fee. Those who were undecided about their major were somewhat more likely to show, and close to one out of every three paid the fee. Although there were unequal distributions of applicants and shows in the different majors, there was little variation in show rates. Although the same trend existed for applicants from the top fifth, the range of the show rates was smaller. The show rates ranged from a high of 28% for those who were undecided, to a low of 23% for natural science. Regardless of the selected major, approximately one out of four from the top fifth show at Hofstra.

Financial Aid Requested

Table 4 presents the data indicating the percent accepted, the percent who showed, and the show rate cross-tabulated by decile and by whether financial aid was requested.

Table 4

Percent Accepted, Percent Who Showed, and Show Rate by Whether Financial Aid Was Requested and Class Rank

Aid Requested?	Percent Accepted		Percent Showed		Show Rate	
	Top 5th	Other	Top 5th	Other	Top 5th	Other
Yes	67	38	64	35	24	28
No	33	62	36	65	27	32
Total (or Avg.)	100	100	100	100	25	30
N	1380	1826	345	557		

While the request for financial aid probably is not as significant as the receipt of aid, we believed that this analysis might provide useful data. The data indicate wide variations in the percent of the applicants who requested aid as a function of class standing. Among those in the top fifth of the class, about two out of three of both accepted applicants and shows requested aid. In the remaining four-fifths of the class, only 35%-40% of these accepted and those who showed requested aid. The show rates, however, did not differ greatly, though there was a slight tendency for persons who did not request aid to have slightly higher rates.

Financial Aid Offered

A priori, this variable would appear to be one of the most important. One would expect that financial aid offers should make a significant difference in show rates. Surprisingly, there have been few studies of the specific effects of financial aid offers on enrollment. One recent study at the University of Wisconsin (Wilcox, 1974) indicates a large effect. A special program invited 300 of the top admitted freshmen to apply for special scholarships equivalent to one semesters tuition. Eighty students were selected, and an amazing 94% of these enrolled, compared to a usual yield of 50% with students of this caliber. Apparently, financial aid offers that are appropriate can significantly affect show rates.

Pertinent data from the present study are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Table 5 indicates the number who requested, the number who were offered, and the percent requested and offered financial aid by decile.

Table 5

Applicants Who Requested and Applicants Who Were Offered Financial Aid by Decile

Decile	Aid Requested		Aid Offered		Percent Offered
	N	%	N	%	
1	529	33	280	56	53
2	389	24	114	23	29
3	241	15	46	9	19
4	207	13	14	3	7
5-10	242	15	46	9	19
Total(or Avg)	1608	100	500	100	31

Awards that could be applied at other schools, loans, or money which involved work were not included. The awards ranged from $200 to $4,500 but they were grouped into three intervals for subsequent analyses. Large intervals were chosen in order to have a substantial number of applicants in each grouping. The data indicate that those from the top fifth were more likely to be offered financial aid (more than three out of every four offers went to this group), but many of those who requested aid did not receive any.

About 50% of the first decile applicants who requested aid were offered aid. This percent went down to 30% for the second decile applicants, and was below 20% for those in other deciles. While most of the applicants were from the top fifth of the class, and most of the offers went to the top fifth, only 43% of the students in the top fifth who requested aid received offers. This was in contrast to more recent policies at some schools that offer aid to all students who graduate high in their class or who achieve very high SAT scores.

Table 6 indicates the show rates as a function of the amount of money offered and the high school decile.

Table 6

Show Rates as a Function of Amount of Financial Aid Offered and High School Decile

Decile	Under $800 N=146 %	$800-$1299 N=189 %	$1300 and up N=165 %	Total N=500 %
1	28	37	44	37
2	53	43	59	51
3-10	44	79	77	70
Total (or Avg)	38	46	56	47

The data previously presented in Table 1 indicated that show rates were inversely related to high school decile. The data in Table 6 confirm this trend, but there were higher show rates. The total show rate for first decile applicants was 23%, the rate for those who are offered aid was 37%. The comparable rates for second decile applicants was 27% and 51%. If we consider that the rates in Table 1 include both individuals who were offered aid and those who were not, we can conclude that the offers of aid approximately doubled the show rate.

The data also show that the amount of the offer makes a difference. The show rate of 56% for those who received offers of $1300 or more was almost 50% higher than the rate of 38% for those who received offers of less than $800, and was double the overall university show rate of 28%.

Finally, there was a joint effect of high school decile and amount of financial aid offer on show rate. Large amounts of money appeared to have more of an effect on persons in the lower deciles. For persons in the second decile, even a small amount of money seemed to make a difference such that approximately half of them enrolled. On the other hand, even offers of $1300 or more did not bring the show rate of first decile applicants up to 50%.

References

Iffert, R. E. and Clark, B. S. College applicants, entrants, dropouts (Bulletin No. 29). Washington, D. C.: Bureau of Educational Research and Development, U.S. Office of Education, 1965.

Wilcox, L. Financial aid and admissions quotas. The College Board Review, Winter 1973-1974, 90, 10-12.

Yuker, H. E. A study of 1964 freshman class (CSHE Report #54). Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.: Center for the Study of Higher Education, 1966.